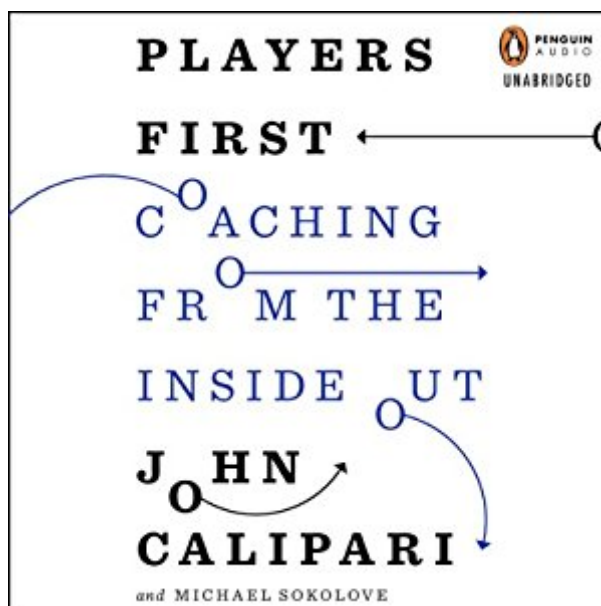


The book was found

# Players First: Coaching From The Inside Out



## Synopsis

In *Players First*, John Calipari relates for the first time anywhere his experiences over his first four years coaching the Kentucky Wildcats, college basketball's most fabled program, from the doldrums to a national championship, drawing lessons about leadership, character, and the path to personal and collective victory. At its core, Calipari's coaching philosophy centers on keeping his focus on the players - what they need to get the best out of themselves and one another. He is beloved by his players for being utterly honest with them and making promises that he always keeps, no matter what. He knows that in this age, they come to Kentucky to prepare for the NBA; every year he gets players who in a previous era would have gone directly into the pros from high school but now have to play college basketball for one year. Calipari has fought against this system, but he has to play within it, and so he does, better than anyone. The result is an extraordinary leadership challenge: every year Coach Cal gets a handful of eighteen-year-old kids who have been in a bubble for the previous four years at least, filled with hype about their own greatness, and they come to Kentucky feeling sure that they will play for their coach only for seven months before they go on to greater glory. Every year, he has to reinvent his team. After his 2012 NCAA championship, it was particularly dramatic; he lost his first six players in the first round, meaning that someone who couldn't even start for Kentucky was a first-round draft pick. The overall record at Kentucky, and for his career, puts Calipari in the pantheon of the greatest coaches in the history of the game. Bold, funny, and truthful, like Coach Calipari himself, *Players First* is truly the first deep reckoning with the meaning of his experiences and the gifts of insight they offer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoy the book, but the cover was sent all dirty. Like it was kept in a pile of dirt for awhile and it is scraped so it is not something that I can wipe off. I cherish my books so I like them to look pristine [at least the outside cover - I typically take them off while I am reading and when I am done I put them back on so they look nice again] so it was discouraging to open this package and see it was all dirty. It was also a gift, so I kept apologizing that my boyfriend received a dingy book.

I am absolutely happy with the book, I read on the internet these days and I have only read a few chapters. The more I read about John Calipari, the more I respect him. His players know he will be tough on them, but he gets them ready for the NBA! Normally from a year in college, they go on to the League and millions in income and benefits for themselves and their families. Outstanding coaches and TV coverage has made such things possible! Anthony Davis may be his best player yet and Coach Cal believes he will prove to be a cut above other League members.

I found this book a fascinating read, and not just because I am a UK basketball fan. This book details the rigors of running a highly successful program at a college basketball powerhouse. It also presents cogent ideas for shaping the future of the game. It's a recommended read for any college basketball fan.

John Calipari is mostly known for his excellent abilities as an elite recruiter. I liked the parts of this book where he addresses the ways he works with his athlete to motivate the All-Americans he brings to Kentucky. If you are looking for a book that goes into coaching leadership, motivation, and designing excellent practices, Championship Performance Coaching goes into much greater detail on these topics.

I wasn't a John Calapari fan until I read this book. Now I understand his philosophy of putting the players needs above everything else. A great read

Excellent Book. Easy to read, motivational and touching. If you like basketball, leadership, motivating people or any combination, this is a great read.

Followed a link off Facebook to buy this. I thought it said if you pre-ordered it would come autographed but it didn't so must have misunderstood. My husband and I are long time Wildcats

fans and this was a gift for him so was kind of disappointed it wasn't signed. Otherwise he really enjoyed reading the book.

It was not quite what I was expecting. It definitely doesn't have the wisdom of a book from Wooden. Some of the stories are neat but I felt that techniques Calipari uses beyond hard work were lacking. The part I learned the most about (not very useful but cool to know) was the rules of the NCAA and his suggestions about changes to encourage students to stay in school and protect their futures.

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